(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor alongwith the norms prescribed for renewal of licences; and

(c) whether the matter was referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs and if so, the details of the comments offered by them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The operator's permit of M/s. MESCO Airlines was valid upto 31st March, 2000. It was not renewed thereafter for want of clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs, on account of certain cases involving financial irregularities by some of the Directors on the Board. These Directors have since resigned from the Board of the company, and renewal of the operator's permit approved.

Operation of Private Airlines

3236. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the private airlines operating in the country, alongwith the fleet of their aircrafts;

(b) whether those airlines cover the uneconomical routes in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, airline-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) M/s Jet Airways and M/s. Sahara Airlines are the two private airlines operating scheduled passenger services in the country. Their fleet strength is as follows:

M/s Jet Airways:	10 B-737-400
(Total: 29 aircraft)	3 B-737-500
	4 B-737-700
	8 B-737-800
	4 ATR-72-500
M/s Sahara Airlines:	2 B-737-200
(Total: 9 aircraft)	4 B-737-400
	1 B-737-700
	2 B-737-800

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, airlines are free to operate on any route in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal

Guidelines which, *inter alia*, stipulate that all scheduled operators will deploy in the North East, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Category-II routes), at least 10% of their capacity deployed on Trunk Routes (Category-I routes) and 50% of the capacity provided on category-I routes is to be deployed on routes other than category-I and category-II routes (Category-III routes).

Opening of Post Offices

3237. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages of Gujarat where there is no post office within the radius of three to five kilometres, the details thereof district and village-wise; and

(b) by when Government propose to make post offices available in such villages of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information asked for is given in the statement enclosed (*See* below).

(b) The opening of new post offices is subject to the prescribed Plan Targets. Further it depends upon fulfilment of prescribed norms for opening of new post offices availability of funds and sanctioning of the required posts by Ministry of Finance.

Statement

District-wise number of villages where there is no post office within the radius of three to five kilometres

Sl. No	Name of District	No. of villages
1.	Ahmedabad	—
2.	Banaskantha	176
3.	Gandhinagar	•75
4.	Mahesana	115
5.	Patan	88
6.	Sabarkantha	52
7.	Amreli	64
8.	Bhavnagar	120
9.	Jamnagar	171